

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 OMB-01 T-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 NEA-10 /136 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 047440

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MARR, RP

SUBJECT: MUSLIM PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. AUSTRALIAN DCM, MINISTER ROY FERNANDEZ, CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL AFTERNOON MARCH 13 TO TALK ABOUT MUSLIM PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. FERNANDEZ SAID AUSTRALIAN GOVT HAD RECEIVED SECRET DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM GOP MENTIONING INVOLVEMENT EXTERNAL ATTACKERS IN FIGHTING IN MINDANAO AND THE SULUS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD SIMILAR NOTES HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF SEATO AND ALSO OF ASEAN.

2. FERNANDEZ WENT ON TO SAY THAT AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS
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IN JAKARTA AND KUALA LUMPUR HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEIR HOST GOVTS ABOUT MUSLIM PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AND HAD INDICATED IN LOWKEY MANNER THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS MATTER. IN MANILA AMBASSADOR INGRAHAM HAD DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH AMBASSADOR BYROADE AND HAD ALSO HAD CONVERSATION MARCH 9 WITH PHILIPPINE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR. MELCHOR HAD TOLD INGRAHAM HE WAS SEEKING EVIDENCE OF OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM INSURGENTS.

3. MELCHOR HOPED TO FIND EVIDENCE WHICH COULD BE SHOWN TO OTHER COUNTRIES ON SELECTIVE BASIS.

4. FERNANDEZ ASKED WHAT STEPS U. S. MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING. HUMMEL REPLIED HARD FOR US TO SEE ANY ROLE WE COULD USEFULLY PLAY. WE WERE NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY ACTIONS AND WERE, IN FACT, FOLLOWING ABOUT THE SAME POLICY WE HAD PURSUED RELATIVE TO SABAH DISPUTE; THAT IS TO SAY, WE WERE AVOIDING INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUES. HUMMEL SAID SEEMS TO US THAT COUNTRIES IN THE AREA ARE THE ONES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE MAJOR EFFORT TO FIND WAYS TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM, AND WE HAVE NOTED THAT ASEAN MEMBERS SEEMED TO BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS, AND ARE IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER. FERNANDEZ ACKNOWLEDGED LOGIC OF THIS U. S. POSTURE.

5. COMMENTING ON FERNANDEZ REFERENCE TO MALAYSIAN INFORMATION MINISTER GHAZALI'S ADMONITION TO MELCHOR THAT THE PHILIPPINE CLAIM TO SABAH STOOD IN THE WAY OF A SOLUTION, HUMMEL SAID WOULD BE POLITICALLY VERY DIFFICULT IN OUR OPINION FOR MARCOS TO RENOUNCE PHILIPPINE CLAIM TO SABAH UNDER PRESSURE.

6. FERNANDEZ ASKED WHAT U. S. WAS DOING RE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES IN THIS SITUATION. HUMMEL RESPONDED THAT OUR NORMAL MAP PROGRAM HAD NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED AND THAT IT WOULD REALLY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR U. S. TO DO OTHER THAN CONTINUE IN ITS NORMAL OPERATION. ROGERS

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TAGS: MARR, PFOR, PINS, RP
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KUALA LUMPUR
MANILA
SINGAPORE

Type: TE

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